



**Treated problem drug use in Ireland: Figures for
2007 from the National Drug Treatment Reporting
System**



**Alcohol and Drug Research Unit, Health
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Summary

Significant improvements in the NDTRS's data collection processes and procedures mean that the HRB is now able to report on the information collected from treatment centres on a more regular basis. From 2009, the figures on the extent of treated drug and alcohol use will be published within a year of collection. Trends papers will also be published regularly to examine changes over time. The data presented in this paper provide a description of problem drug use in Ireland in 2007 by HSE area of residence.

There were 13,620 cases treated in 2007, of which 5,977 entered treatment in that year. As in 2006, the majority of cases attended outpatient services. The number of individuals in methadone treatment from the preceding calendar year and carried forward on 1 January increased from 7,269 in 2006 to 7,643 in 2007. (Tables 1 and 2)

The average annual incidence for the period 2003 to 2007 was highest in Waterford, Louth, Wexford and Carlow, with all reporting more than 100 cases per 100,000 of their population. (Figure 2)

The prevalence of treated problem drug use among 15-64-year-olds living in Ireland expressed per 100,000 of the population increased by 4%, from 426 in 2006 to 445 in 2007. (Figure 4)

New cases entering treatment are an indirect indicator of recent trends in problem drug use. The incidence of treated problem drug use among 15-64-year-olds per 100,000 of the population living in Ireland increased from 75 in 2006 to 80 in 2007. (Figure 4)

An opiate (mainly heroin) was the most common main problem drug reported by all cases entering treatment. (Table 7)

The main problem drugs reported by new cases in 2007 were opiates (42.7%), cannabis (28.7%) and cocaine (19.1%). The proportion of new cases treated for opiates and cocaine has increased since 2006; however, the proportion of new cases treated for cannabis has decreased. (Table 7)

The majority of cases treated in 2007 reported problem drug use of more than one substance (67.1%), which was slightly lower than in 2006 (71.1%). Polysubstance use increases the complexity of these cases, and is associated with poorer treatment outcomes. (Table 8)

Cannabis (42.7%) and cocaine (35.8%) were the two most common additional problem drugs reported in 2007, similar to 2006. However, alcohol was reported as an additional problem substance in 40% of all treated cases. Polysubstance use increases the complexity of these cases, and is associated with poorer treatment outcomes. (Table 10)

In total, 473 new injector cases entered treatment in 2007, an increase of 50 cases since 2006. Almost half of these were still injecting on entry to treatment and 48% reported sharing injecting equipment, again an increase from 2006. (Table 12)

In general, problem drug users in treatment are young and male, have low levels of education and are unlikely to be employed. Almost 14% of all new cases treated in 2007 were aged under 18 years of age, a slight increase from 2006. Almost 3% of previously treated cases were aged under 18 years, similar to 2006. (Table 13)

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Glossary of terms

The median is the value at the mid-point in a sequence of numerical values ranged in ascending or descending order. It is defined as the value above or below which half of the values lie. Unlike the mean (average), the median is not influenced by extreme values (or outliers). For example, in the case of five drug users aged 22, 23, 24, 24 and 46 years respectively, the median (middle value) is 24 years, whereas the mean is 27.8 years. While both the median and the mean describe the central value of the data. In this case, the median is more useful since the mean is influenced by the one older person in this example.

Incidence is a term used to describe the number of new cases of disease or events that develop among a population during a specified time interval. For example, in 2007, 10 opiate users living in a specific county sought treatment for the first time. The incidence is the number of new opiate cases treated divided by the population living in the county (say 31,182 persons in this example) expressed per given number of the population, i.e., per 100, per 1,000, per 10,000, per 100,000 etc.

The calculation in this case is as follows: $(10/31,182) \times 100,000$, which gives an incidence rate of 32 per 100,000 of the specific county population in 2007.

Prevalence is a term used to describe the proportion of people in a population who have a disease or condition at a specific point or period in time. For example, in 2007, 10 opiate users living in a specific county sought treatment for the first time, 20 opiate users returned to treatment in the year and five opiate users continued in treatment from the previous year; in total there are 35 people treated for problem opiate use in 2007. The prevalence is the total number of cases (35) divided by the population living in the county (31,182 persons) expressed per given number of the population, i.e., per 100, per 1,000, per 10,000, per 100,000 etc.

The calculation in this case is as follows: $(35/31,182) \times 100,000$, which gives a prevalence rate of 112 per 100,000 of the specific county population in 2007.

All cases treated describe all of the individuals who receive treatment for problem drug use at each treatment centre in a calendar year. All cases treated will include: -

- **Previously treated cases** describes individuals who were treated previously for problem drug use at any treatment centre and have returned to treatment in the reporting year; and
- **New cases treated** describes individuals who have never been treated for problem drug use; and
- **Status unknown** describes individuals whose status with respect to previous treatment for problem drug use is not known.

Health Service Executive (HSE)

On 1 January 2005, the 10 health boards managing the health services in Ireland were replaced by a single entity, the Health Service Executive (HSE). The former health boards were responsible for health care provision to populations in specific geographical areas. In the interest of continuity of care, the HSE maintained these 10 areas for an interim period and called them HSE areas. The former Eastern Regional Health Authority was known as the HSE Eastern region for this interim period. The table below presents the past health board structure and the interim HSE areas structure:

| Regional Health Authority | Health boards | HSE areas |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Not applicable | North Eastern Health Board | HSE North Eastern Area |
| Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA*) | Northern Area Health Board | HSE Northern Area |
| Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) | East Coast Area Health Board | HSE East Coast Area |
| Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) | South Western Area Health Board | HSE South Western Area |
| Not applicable | Midland Health Board | HSE Midland Area |
| Not applicable | South Eastern Health Board | HSE South Eastern Area |
| Not applicable | Southern Health Board | HSE Southern Area |
| Not applicable | Mid-Western Health Board | HSE Mid-Western Area |
| Not applicable | North Western Health Board | HSE North Western Area |
| Not applicable | Western Health Board | HSE Western Area |

*The ERHA was known as the HSE Eastern Region for the interim period

HSE Regions

Following a number of years of re-structuring, health care is now provided through four HSE regions and 32 local health offices (LHOs). The local health offices are based on the geographical boundaries of the former community care areas. The table below presents the current HSE structure:

| HSE regions | Local health offices | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| HSE Dublin North East | North West Dublin Dublin North Central | North Dublin Cavan/Monaghan | Louth Meath |
| HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster | Dublin South Dublin South East Dublin South City | Dublin South West Dublin West Kildare/West Wicklow | Wicklow East Longford/Westmeath Laois/Offaly |
| HSE South | Cork South Lee Cork North Lee West Cork | North Cork Kerry Carlow/Kilkenny | Tipperary South Waterford Wexford |
| HSE West | Donegal Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan Galway | Mayo Roscommon Tipperary North/ East Limerick | Limerick Clare |

Introduction

Background

The figures and information in this document are based on data collected through the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS). This is an epidemiological database on treated drug and alcohol misuse in Ireland. It is co-ordinated by staff at the Alcohol and Drug Research Unit (ADRU) of the Health Research Board (HRB) on behalf of the Department of Health and Children.

Established in 1990 to record drug misuse only, the NDTRS recorded problematic use of alcohol only in cases where it was an additional problem substance, that is, where the client's main reason for entering treatment was drug misuse but he/she also reported problematic use of alcohol (Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation 2001; Hartnoll 1994; EMCDDA and Pompidou Group 2000).

However, it became increasingly evident that alcohol was the main problem substance in Ireland and that a large proportion of cases used both alcohol and drugs (Long et al. 2004a). In parts of the country, particularly outside Dublin, alcohol and drug treatment services are integrated. Failure to include alcohol data in reporting systems leads to an underestimation of problem substance use, and of the workload of addiction services (Long et al. 2004b). In recognition of this, the remit of the NDTRS was extended in 2004 to include cases where alcohol is recorded as the main or only reason for seeking treatment. The overlap between problem alcohol and other drug use has been identified in the current strategic plans of a number of drugs task forces, which have emphasised the need for treatment services that can address the many forms of polysubstance use.

Impact of information provided

The HRB supply service providers and policy makers with relevant data from the NDTRS to inform local and national substance misuse policy and planning. In recent years this information has central to drug strategy and policy decisions:

1996 NDTRS data were used to identify a number of local areas with problematic heroin use (Ministerial Task Force 1996). These areas were later designated as Local Drugs Task Force (LDTF) areas and are continuing to provide strategic responses to drug misuse in their communities.

2004 NDTRS data were used to describe treatment-seeking characteristics and behaviours of those aged under 18 years and to inform the deliberations of the working group on treatment of under-18-year-olds (2005).

2007 NDTRS data were used to inform some of the recommendations of the working group on drugs rehabilitation (2007), and by the working group on residential services (O'Gorman and Corrigan 2008) to help estimate the number of residential places required to address severe alcohol and drug problems in Ireland.

Methods

Data collection and reporting

Significant improvements in the NDTRS's data collection processes and procedures mean that the HRB is now able position to report on the information collected from treatment centres on a more regular basis. From 2009, the figures on the extent of treated drug and alcohol use will be published within a year of collection. Trends papers will also be published regularly to examine changes over time.

The NDTRS requires that one form be completed for each new client coming for first treatment and for each previously-treated client returning to treatment for problem drug and/or alcohol use in a calendar year. Service providers at treatment centres throughout Ireland collect data on each individual who attends for first treatment or returns to treatment

in a calendar year. ADRU staff in the HRB compile anonymous, aggregated data, which are analysed and reported at national and EU levels. The Central Treatment List (CTL) provide the HRB with data on the number of individuals who were receiving methadone treatment on 31 December in the preceding year and carried forward to 1 January in the current year.

For the purpose of the NDTRS, treatment is broadly defined as 'any activity which aims to ameliorate the psychological, medical or social state of individuals who seek help for their substance misuse problems'. Clients who attend needle-exchange services are not included in this reporting system. As of 2004, clients who report alcohol as their main problem drug are included in this reporting system. Treatment options for alcohol cases include one or more of the following: brief intervention, alcohol detoxification, psychiatric treatment, medication-free therapy, counselling, family therapy, social and/or occupational reintegration, education/awareness programmes and complementary therapies. Treatment is provided in both residential and non-residential settings.

In the case of the data for 'previously treated cases', there is a possibility that individuals appear more than once in the database: for example, where a person receives treatment at more than one centre.

Treatment is provided in both residential and non-residential settings (Table 1). The number of all of types of services providing treatment and returning data to the NDTRS has increased between 2006 and 2007. In 2007, 288 treatment services, comprising 173 outpatient services, 27 residential facilities, five low-threshold services and 83 general practitioners, returned data. The process of recruiting services that have not participated in the NDTRS to date is ongoing. There may be small differences in figures previously published owing to minor corrections to the data, as a result of quality control procedures.

The data presented in this paper provide a description of problem drug use in Ireland by HSE area of residence. There were 61,214 cases treated between 2003 and 2007, of which 27,001 entered treatment during the reporting period. Of these cases, 25,312 (94%) lived in Ireland at an identified address, 1,656 (6%) lived in Ireland with no identified address, and 33 (0.1%) did not live in Ireland. The tables presenting data on service provision and treatment status are based on the total number of 61,214 treated cases (Tables 1 and 2). Table 3 presents data on the 27,001 cases who entered treatment during the period under review. The remainder of the tables are based on the 25,312 cases who entered treatment and whose HSE region of residence in Ireland was known.

Outline of document

The tables and figures presented examine:

- service provision
- number of cases treated
- incidence and prevalence of treated drug use
- main and additional problem substances
- initial treatment provision
- risk behaviours
- main socio-demographic characteristics of treated cases
- relationship between main problem drug and selected socio-demographic characteristics.

Service provision

Table 1 Number and types of service providing treatment for problem drug use and number of cases in treatment (in brackets) in Ireland and reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| Type of treatment facility | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Number of services (Number of cases treated) | | | | | |
| All cases in treatment | (11515) | (11235) | (12100) | (12744) | (13620) |
| Outpatient | 132 (7808) | 144 (7487) | 146 (8156) | 146 (8626) | 173 (9258) |
| Residential | 17 (900) | 19 (739) | 21 (827) | 23 (994) | 27 (1075) |
| Low threshold* | 3 (269) | 3 (310) | 3 (289) | 3 (234) | 5 (126) |
| General practitioner | 91 (2527) | 95 (2699) | 99 (2828) | 66 (2890) | 83 (3161) |
| Service type unknown† | 1 (11) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) |

*Low-threshold services are services that provide low-dose methadone or drop-in facilities only.

† Relevant data not recorded on the NDTRS form returned.

* Data provided by the Central Treatment List.

Numbers of cases treated

Table 2 Number (%) of cases in treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| Treatment status | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Number (%) | | | | | |
| All cases in treatment | 11515 | 11235 | 12100 | 12744 | 13620 |
| Cases continuing in methadone treatment from previous year | 5944 (51.6) | 6433 (57.3) | 6924 (57.2) | 7269 (57.0) | 7643 (56.1) |
| Entries to treatment each year | 5571 | 4802 | 5176 | 5475 | 5977 |
| Of which: | | | | | |
| Previously treated cases returning to treatment | 3192 (27.7) | 2765 (24.6) | 2970 (24.5) | 3000 (23.5) | 3309 (24.3) |
| New cases | 2245 (19.5) | 1858 (16.5) | 2054 (17.0) | 2278 (17.9) | 2476 (18.2) |
| Treatment status unknown* | 134 (1.2) | 179 (1.6) | 152 (1.3) | 197 (1.5) | 192 (1.4) |

*Relevant data not recorded on the NDTRS form returned.

Table 3 Number (%) of cases entering treatment in Ireland, by place of residence, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| Place of residence | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number (%) | | | | | |
| All cases entering treatment | 5571 | 4802 | 5176 | 5475 | 5977 |
| Specified HSE region | 5054 (90.7) | 4506 (93.8) | 4877 (94.2) | 5191 (94.8) | 5684 (95.0) |
| Ireland unknown | 514 (9.2) | 291 (6.1) | 290 (5.6) | 273 (5.0) | 288 (4.8) |
| Not resident in Ireland | 3 (0.1) | 5 (0.1) | 9 (0.2) | 11 (0.2) | 5 (0.1) |

From this point on tables exclude cases whose HSE region of residence is not known or cases who are not normally resident in Ireland.

Table 4 Number (%) of cases entering treatment in Ireland, by HSE region of residence and by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| HSE region of residence | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Number (%) | | | | |
| All cases entering treatment | 5054 | 4506 | 4877 | 5191 | 5684 |
| Dublin North East | 1499 (29.7) | 1347 (29.9) | 1484 (30.4) | 1510 (29.1) | 1507 (26.5) |
| Dublin Mid-Leinster | 1802 (35.7) | 1870 (41.5) | 1876 (38.5) | 1996 (38.5) | 2149 (37.8) |
| South | 1255 (24.8) | 886 (19.7) | 1047 (21.5) | 1104 (21.3) | 1210 (21.3) |
| West | 498 (9.9) | 403 (8.9) | 470 (9.6) | 581 (11.2) | 818 (14.4) |
| Previously treated cases | 2838 | 2555 | 2760 | 2781 | 3091 |
| Dublin North East | 963 (33.9) | 850 (33.3) | 942 (34.1) | 810 (29.1) | 813 (26.3) |
| Dublin Mid-Leinster | 1238 (43.6) | 1303 (51.0) | 1331 (48.2) | 1347 (48.4) | 1476 (47.8) |
| South | 470 (16.6) | 281 (11.0) | 334 (12.1) | 388 (14.0) | 463 (15.0) |
| West | 167 (5.9) | 121 (4.7) | 153 (5.5) | 236 (8.5) | 339 (11.0) |
| New cases | 2097 | 1790 | 1976 | 2228 | 2419 |
| Dublin North East | 499 (23.8) | 442 (24.7) | 488 (24.7) | 629 (28.2) | 634 (26.2) |
| Dublin Mid-Leinster | 517 (24.7) | 503 (28.1) | 489 (24.7) | 567 (25.4) | 599 (24.8) |
| South | 774 (36.9) | 588 (32.8) | 700 (35.4) | 698 (31.3) | 727 (30.1) |
| West | 307 (14.6) | 257 (14.4) | 299 (15.1) | 334 (15.0) | 459 (19.0) |
| Treatment status unknown | 119 | 161 | 141 | 182 | 174 |

Table 5 Number (%) of cases entering treatment in Ireland, by former health board area of residence and by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| Former health board area of residence | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number (%) | | | | | |
| All cases entering treatment | 5054 | 4506 | 4877 | 5191 | 5684 |
| Southern | 645 (12.8) | 378 (8.4) | 490 (10.0) | 513 (9.9) | 556 (9.8) |
| North West | 120 (2.4) | 118 (2.6) | 108 (2.2) | 102 (2.0) | 120 (2.1) |
| Midland | 228 (4.5) | 196 (4.3) | 175 (3.6) | 195 (3.8) | 267 (4.7) |
| Western | 160 (3.2) | 105 (2.3) | 178 (3.6) | 193 (3.7) | 290 (5.1) |
| Mid-Western | 218 (4.3) | 180 (4.0) | 184 (3.8) | 286 (5.5) | 408 (7.2) |
| North Eastern | 387 (7.7) | 374 (8.3) | 365 (7.5) | 470 (9.1) | 436 (7.7) |
| South Eastern | 610 (12.1) | 529 (11.7) | 609 (12.5) | 636 (12.3) | 708 (12.5) |
| East Coast (of Dublin and Wicklow) | 271 (5.4) | 202 (4.5) | 236 (4.8) | 299 (5.8) | 325 (5.7) |
| South West (of Dublin and Wicklow and all of Kildare) | 1248 (24.7) | 1420 (31.5) | 1388 (28.5) | 1443 (27.8) | 1490 (26.2) |
| North Dublin (City and County) | 1112 (22.0) | 973 (21.6) | 1119 (22.9) | 1040 (20.0) | 1071 (18.8) |
| In Ireland but complete address unknown* | 55 (1.1) | 31 (0.7) | 25 (0.5) | 14 (0.3) | 13 (0.2) |
| Previously treated cases | 2838 | 2555 | 2760 | 2781 | 3091 |
| Southern | 267 (9.4) | 108 (4.2) | 165 (6.0) | 165 (5.9) | 228 (7.4) |
| North West | 40 (1.4) | 29 (1.1) | 22 (0.8) | 33 (1.2) | 42 (1.4) |
| Midland | 91 (3.2) | 82 (3.2) | 66 (2.4) | 77 (2.8) | 118 (3.8) |
| Western | 62 (2.2) | 43 (1.7) | 75 (2.7) | 101 (3.6) | 153 (4.9) |
| Mid-Western | 65 (2.3) | 49 (1.9) | 56 (2.0) | 102 (3.7) | 144 (4.7) |
| North Eastern | 146 (5.1) | 130 (5.1) | 125 (4.5) | 148 (5.3) | 189 (6.1) |
| South Eastern | 203 (7.2) | 178 (7.0) | 183 (6.6) | 242 (8.7) | 260 (8.4) |
| East Coast (of Dublin and Wicklow) | 171 (6.0) | 140 (5.5) | 180 (6.5) | 195 (7.0) | 216 (7.0) |
| South West (of Dublin and Wicklow and all of Kildare) | 954 (33.6) | 1064 (41.6) | 1060 (38.4) | 1050 (37.8) | 1114 (36.0) |
| North Dublin (City and County) | 817 (28.8) | 720 (28.2) | 817 (29.6) | 662 (23.8) | 624 (20.2) |
| In Ireland but complete address unknown* | 22 (0.8) | 12 (0.5) | 11 (0.4) | 6 (0.2) | 3 (0.1) |
| New cases | 2097 | 1790 | 1976 | 2228 | 2419 |
| Southern | 373 (17.8) | 257 (14.4) | 317 (16.0) | 332 (14.9) | 317 (13.1) |
| North West | 75 (3.6) | 86 (4.8) | 79 (4.0) | 68 (3.1) | 75 (3.1) |
| Midland | 135 (6.4) | 107 (6.0) | 105 (5.3) | 116 (5.2) | 139 (5.7) |
| Western | 94 (4.5) | 59 (3.3) | 97 (4.9) | 92 (4.1) | 134 (5.5) |
| Mid-Western | 138 (6.6) | 112 (6.3) | 123 (6.2) | 174 (7.8) | 250 (10.3) |
| North Eastern | 229 (10.9) | 236 (13.2) | 224 (11.3) | 303 (13.6) | 236 (9.8) |
| South Eastern | 401 (19.1) | 347 (19.4) | 420 (21.3) | 392 (17.6) | 435 (18.0) |
| East Coast (of Dublin and Wicklow) | 95 (4.5) | 56 (3.1) | 50 (2.5) | 89 (4.0) | 93 (3.8) |
| South West (of Dublin and Wicklow and all of Kildare) | 256 (12.2) | 307 (17.2) | 283 (14.3) | 328 (14.7) | 332 (13.7) |
| North Dublin (City and County) | 270 (12.9) | 206 (11.5) | 264 (13.4) | 326 (14.6) | 398 (16.5) |
| In Ireland but complete address unknown* | 31 (1.5) | 17 (0.9) | 14 (0.7) | 8 (0.4) | 10 (0.4) |
| Treatment status unknown | 119 | 161 | 141 | 182 | 174 |

*Refers to cases living in Wicklow who were not assigned a specific electoral division code; it is not possible to assign such cases to a former health board area of residence.

Table 6 Number (%) of cases entering treatment in Ireland, by local health office (LHO) area of residence and by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| Local health office | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Number (%) | | | | |
| All cases entering treatment | 5054 | 4506 | 4877 | 5191 | 5684 |
| Dublin South | 137 (2.7) | 70 (1.6) | 87 (1.8) | 118 (2.3) | 112 (2.0) |
| Dublin South East | 69 (1.4) | 64 (1.4) | 60 (1.2) | 68 (1.3) | 92 (1.6) |
| Dublin South City | 373 (7.4) | 362 (8.0) | 344 (7.1) | 318 (6.1) | 336 (5.9) |
| Dublin South West | 360 (7.1) | 420 (9.3) | 422 (8.7) | 483 (9.3) | 485 (8.5) |
| Dublin West | 488 (9.7) | 546 (12.1) | 531 (10.9) | 477 (9.2) | 505 (8.9) |
| North West Dublin | 389 (7.7) | 307 (6.8) | 326 (6.7) | 352 (6.8) | 392 (6.9) |
| Dublin North Central | 447 (8.8) | 382 (8.5) | 524 (10.7) | 414 (8.0) | 390 (6.9) |
| North Dublin | 271 (5.4) | 284 (6.3) | 266 (5.5) | 272 (5.2) | 287 (5.0) |
| Kildare and South West Wicklow | 68 (1.3) | 109 (2.4) | 109 (2.2) | 177 (3.4) | 171 (3.0) |
| Wicklow (East coast) | 65 (1.3) | 68 (1.5) | 89 (1.8) | 113 (2.2) | 121 (2.1) |
| Kerry | 113 (2.2) | 39 (0.9) | 69 (1.4) | 63 (1.2) | 68 (1.2) |
| Donegal | 51 (1.0) | 76 (1.7) | 53 (1.1) | 56 (1.1) | 69 (1.2) |
| Sligo/Leitrim | 69 (1.4) | 42 (0.9) | 55 (1.1) | 46 (0.9) | 51 (0.9) |
| Longford/Westmeath | 105 (2.1) | 89 (2.0) | 66 (1.4) | 119 (2.3) | 164 (2.9) |
| Laois/Offaly | 123 (2.4) | 107 (2.4) | 109 (2.2) | 76 (1.5) | 103 (1.8) |
| Galway | 90 (1.8) | 69 (1.5) | 115 (2.4) | 124 (2.4) | 196 (3.4) |
| Mayo | 31 (0.6) | 20 (0.4) | 41 (0.8) | 35 (0.7) | 53 (0.9) |
| Roscommon | 39 (0.8) | 16 (0.4) | 22 (0.5) | 34 (0.7) | 41 (0.7) |
| Limerick | 113 (2.2) | 105 (2.3) | 111 (2.3) | 172 (3.3) | 300 (5.3) |
| Clare | 52 (1.0) | 42 (0.9) | 37 (0.8) | 67 (1.3) | 65 (1.1) |
| Tipperary NR | 44 (0.9) | 33 (0.7) | 35 (0.7) | 47 (0.9) | 43 (0.8) |
| Louth | 229 (4.5) | 179 (4.0) | 205 (4.2) | 220 (4.2) | 150 (2.6) |
| Meath | 127 (2.5) | 159 (3.5) | 113 (2.3) | 175 (3.4) | 182 (3.2) |
| Cavan/Monaghan | 31 (0.6) | 36 (0.8) | 47 (1.0) | 74 (1.4) | 104 (1.8) |
| Carlow/Kilkenny | 145 (2.9) | 157 (3.5) | 168 (3.4) | 159 (3.1) | 161 (2.8) |
| Tipperary SR | 154 (3.0) | 96 (2.1) | 78 (1.6) | 86 (1.7) | 117 (2.1) |
| Wexford | 149 (2.9) | 131 (2.9) | 185 (3.8) | 203 (3.9) | 238 (4.2) |
| Waterford | 162 (3.2) | 145 (3.2) | 178 (3.6) | 188 (3.6) | 192 (3.4) |
| Cork* | 531 (10.5) | 338 (7.5) | 421 (8.6) | 445 (8.6) | 488 (8.6) |
| LHO area unknown† | 29 (0.6) | 15 (0.3) | 11 (0.2) | 10 (0.2) | 8 (0.1) |
| Previously treated cases | 2838 | 2555 | 2760 | 2781 | 3091 |
| Dublin South | 87 (3.1) | 49 (1.9) | 65 (2.4) | 83 (3.0) | 84 (2.7) |
| Dublin South East | 47 (1.7) | 48 (1.9) | 47 (1.7) | 35 (1.3) | 55 (1.8) |
| Dublin South City | 281 (9.9) | 295 (11.5) | 286 (10.4) | 247 (8.9) | 276 (8.9) |
| Dublin South West | 286 (10.1) | 307 (12.0) | 315 (11.4) | 370 (13.3) | 349 (11.3) |
| Dublin West | 376 (13.2) | 422 (16.5) | 427 (15.5) | 363 (13.1) | 397 (12.8) |
| North West Dublin | 277 (9.8) | 217 (8.5) | 246 (8.9) | 241 (8.7) | 236 (7.6) |
| Dublin North Central | 355 (12.5) | 308 (12.1) | 396 (14.3) | 246 (8.8) | 224 (7.2) |
| North Dublin | 181 (6.4) | 195 (7.6) | 172 (6.2) | 174 (6.3) | 163 (5.3) |
| Kildare and South West Wicklow | 29 (1.0) | 46 (1.8) | 40 (1.4) | 75 (2.7) | 94 (3.0) |
| Wicklow (East coast) | 37 (1.3) | 43 (1.7) | 68 (2.5) | 77 (2.8) | 77 (2.5) |
| Kerry | 57 (2.0) | 10 (0.4) | 27 (1.0) | 17 (0.6) | 27 (0.9) |
| Donegal | 9 (0.3) | 12 (0.5) | 8 (0.3) | 19 (0.7) | 25 (0.8) |
| Sligo/Leitrim | 31 (1.1) | 17 (0.7) | 14 (0.5) | 14 (0.5) | 17 (0.5) |
| Longford/Westmeath | 51 (1.8) | 44 (1.7) | 33 (1.2) | 47 (1.7) | 76 (2.5) |
| Laois/Offaly | 40 (1.4) | 38 (1.5) | 33 (1.2) | 30 (1.1) | 42 (1.4) |
| Galway | 37 (1.3) | 31 (1.2) | 52 (1.9) | 69 (2.5) | 99 (3.2) |
| Mayo | 9 (0.3) | 6 (0.2) | 14 (0.5) | 16 (0.6) | 29 (0.9) |
| Roscommon | 16 (0.6) | 6 (0.2) | 9 (0.3) | 16 (0.6) | 25 (0.8) |
| Limerick | 31 (1.1) | 23 (0.9) | 36 (1.3) | 58 (2.1) | 97 (3.1) |
| Clare | 17 (0.6) | 14 (0.5) | 9 (0.3) | 25 (0.9) | 26 (0.8) |
| Tipperary NR | 13 (0.5) | 12 (0.5) | 11 (0.4) | 19 (0.7) | 21 (0.7) |
| Louth | 101 (3.6) | 53 (2.1) | 79 (2.9) | 70 (2.5) | 66 (2.1) |
| Meath | 34 (1.2) | 64 (2.5) | 32 (1.2) | 59 (2.1) | 64 (2.1) |

| Local health office | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Number (%) | | | | |
| Cavan/Monaghan | 11 (0.4) | 13 (0.5) | 14 (0.5) | 19 (0.7) | 59 (1.9) |
| Carlow/Kilkenny | 57 (2.0) | 70 (2.7) | 59 (2.1) | 74 (2.7) | 65 (2.1) |
| Tipperary SR | 42 (1.5) | 30 (1.2) | 23 (0.8) | 30 (1.1) | 46 (1.5) |
| Wexford | 57 (2.0) | 39 (1.5) | 55 (2.0) | 70 (2.5) | 75 (2.4) |
| Waterford | 47 (1.7) | 39 (1.5) | 46 (1.7) | 68 (2.4) | 74 (2.4) |
| Cork* | 209 (7.4) | 98 (3.8) | 138 (5.0) | 145 (5.2) | 201 (6.5) |
| LHO area unknown [†] | 13 (0.5) | 6 (0.2) | 6 (0.2) | 5 (0.2) | 2 (0.1) |
| New cases | 2097 | 1790 | 1976 | 2228 | 2419 |
| Dublin South | 45 (2.1) | 19 (1.1) | 19 (1.0) | 33 (1.5) | 26 (1.1) |
| Dublin South East | 22 (1.0) | 16 (0.9) | 12 (0.6) | 30 (1.3) | 32 (1.3) |
| Dublin South City | 77 (3.7) | 60 (3.4) | 53 (2.7) | 56 (2.5) | 52 (2.1) |
| Dublin South West | 66 (3.1) | 92 (5.1) | 93 (4.7) | 93 (4.2) | 126 (5.2) |
| Dublin West | 99 (4.7) | 106 (5.9) | 79 (4.0) | 90 (4.0) | 94 (3.9) |
| North West Dublin | 104 (5.0) | 78 (4.4) | 66 (3.3) | 91 (4.1) | 139 (5.7) |
| Dublin North Central | 83 (4.0) | 58 (3.2) | 111 (5.6) | 147 (6.6) | 148 (6.1) |
| North Dublin | 82 (3.9) | 70 (3.9) | 87 (4.4) | 87 (3.9) | 110 (4.5) |
| Kildare and South West Wicklow | 36 (1.7) | 60 (3.4) | 68 (3.4) | 96 (4.3) | 65 (2.7) |
| Wicklow (East coast) | 28 (1.3) | 21 (1.2) | 19 (1.0) | 26 (1.2) | 35 (1.4) |
| Kerry | 56 (2.7) | 27 (1.5) | 42 (2.1) | 44 (2.0) | 41 (1.7) |
| Donegal | 39 (1.9) | 63 (3.5) | 41 (2.1) | 37 (1.7) | 43 (1.8) |
| Sligo/Leitrim | 36 (1.7) | 23 (1.3) | 38 (1.9) | 31 (1.4) | 32 (1.3) |
| Longford/Westmeath | 52 (2.5) | 42 (2.3) | 30 (1.5) | 70 (3.1) | 83 (3.4) |
| Laois/Offaly | 83 (4.0) | 65 (3.6) | 75 (3.8) | 46 (2.1) | 56 (2.3) |
| Galway | 50 (2.4) | 36 (2.0) | 58 (2.9) | 55 (2.5) | 95 (3.9) |
| Mayo | 21 (1.0) | 13 (0.7) | 27 (1.4) | 19 (0.9) | 24 (1.0) |
| Roscommon | 23 (1.1) | 10 (0.6) | 12 (0.6) | 18 (0.8) | 15 (0.6) |
| Limerick | 68 (3.2) | 65 (3.6) | 70 (3.5) | 108 (4.8) | 192 (7.9) |
| Clare | 34 (1.6) | 27 (1.5) | 28 (1.4) | 40 (1.8) | 36 (1.5) |
| Tipperary NR | 31 (1.5) | 20 (1.1) | 24 (1.2) | 26 (1.2) | 22 (0.9) |
| Louth | 119 (5.7) | 121 (6.8) | 115 (5.8) | 138 (6.2) | 80 (3.3) |
| Meath | 92 (4.4) | 94 (5.3) | 79 (4.0) | 111 (5.0) | 111 (4.6) |
| Cavan/Monaghan | 18 (0.9) | 21 (1.2) | 30 (1.5) | 53 (2.4) | 45 (1.9) |
| Carlow/Kilkenny | 88 (4.2) | 86 (4.8) | 108 (5.5) | 85 (3.8) | 86 (3.6) |
| Tipperary SR | 109 (5.2) | 66 (3.7) | 55 (2.8) | 56 (2.5) | 70 (2.9) |
| Wexford | 92 (4.4) | 90 (5.0) | 126 (6.4) | 133 (6.0) | 162 (6.7) |
| Waterford | 112 (5.3) | 105 (5.9) | 131 (6.6) | 118 (5.3) | 117 (4.8) |
| Cork* | 317 (15.1) | 229 (12.8) | 275 (13.9) | 286 (12.8) | 276 (11.4) |
| LHO area unknown [†] | 15 (0.7) | 7 (0.4) | 5 (0.3) | 5 (0.2) | 6 (0.2) |
| Treatment status unknown | 119 | 161 | 141 | 182 | 174 |

* The LHO area coding for County Cork was inconsistent for the period 2003-2007.

[†] Refers to cases living in Wicklow who were not assigned a specific electoral division code and to cases living in other counties who were not assigned a specific county code; it is not possible to assign such cases to an LHO area of residence.

Incidence and prevalence of treated drug use

In order to adjust for variation in population size by geographical area, the actual incidence of treated drug use in each area was calculated using the average number of new cases over the five-year period living in each of the 10 former health board areas, 26 counties and 32 local health office areas; this average was divided by the population aged 15–64 years living in the respective former health board areas and counties, using the census figures for 2003 to 2006 and CSO estimation figures for 2007, and for local health office areas using CSO estimation figures for 2007 (Census 2007).

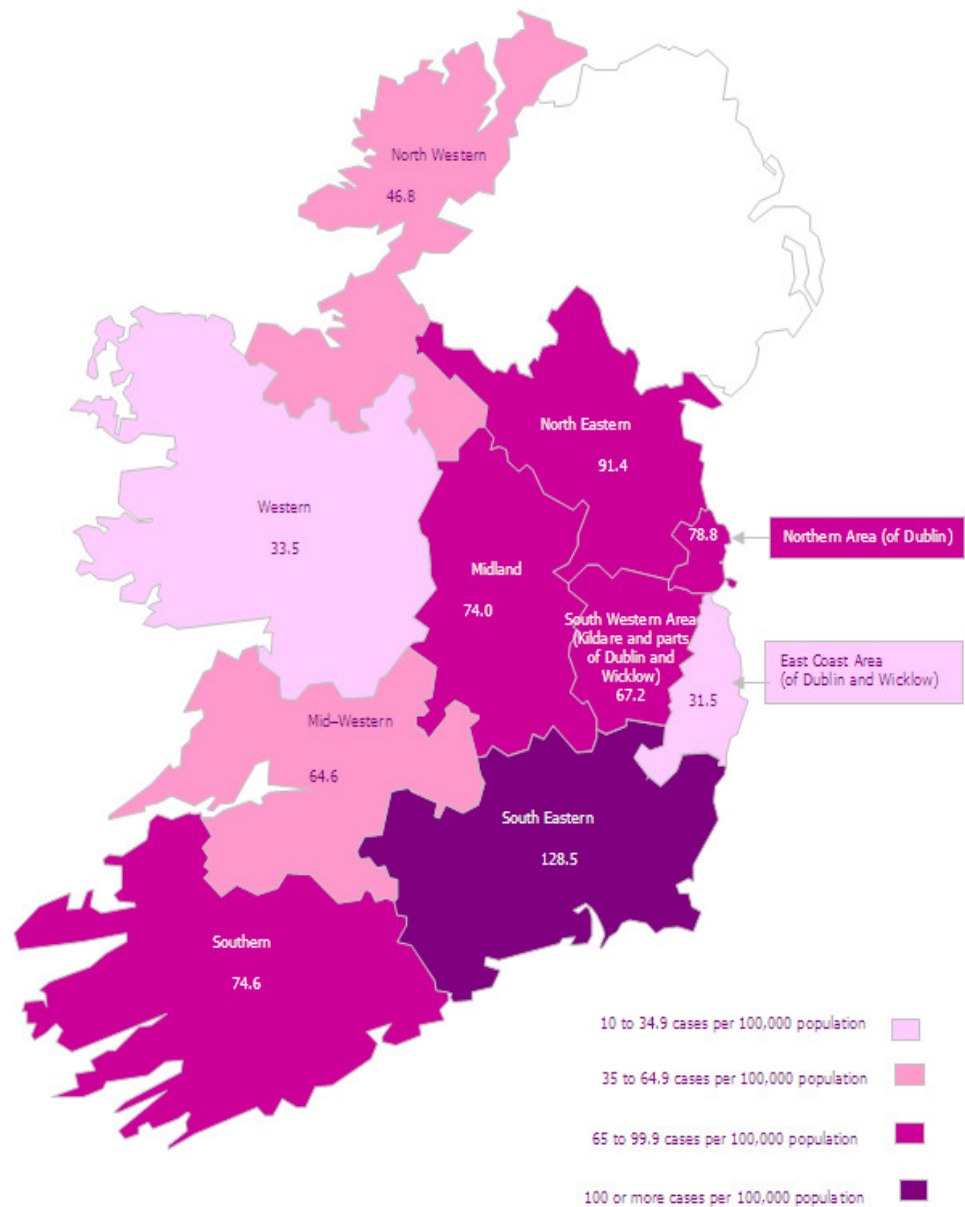


Figure 1 Average annual incidence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds living in Ireland, by former health board area of residence, based on returns to the NDTRS per 100,000 of the population, 2003 to 2007 (Central Statistics Office 2007)

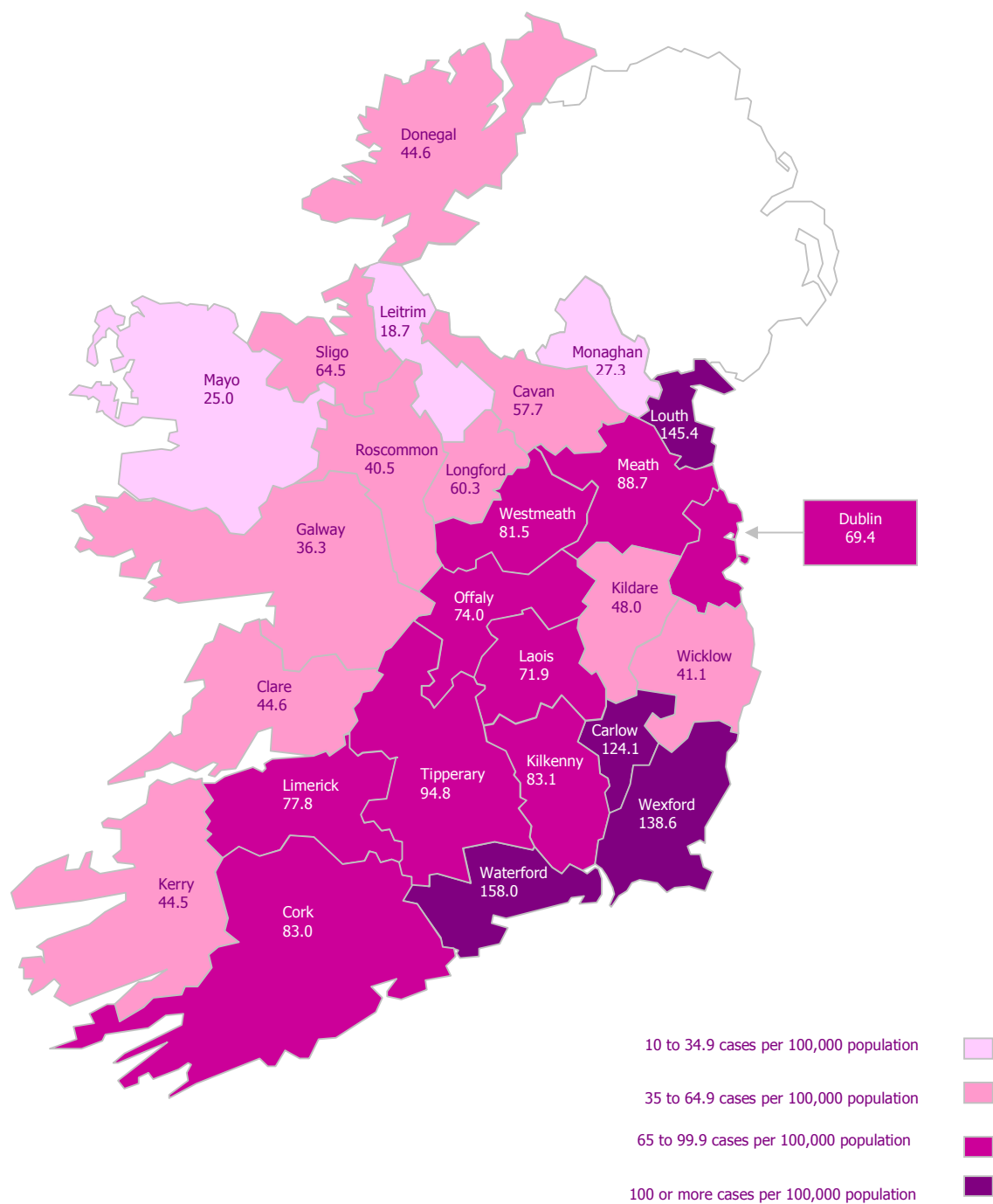


Figure 2 Average annual incidence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds living in Ireland, by county, based on returns to the NDTRS per 100,000 of the population, 2003 to 2007 (Central Statistics Office 2007)

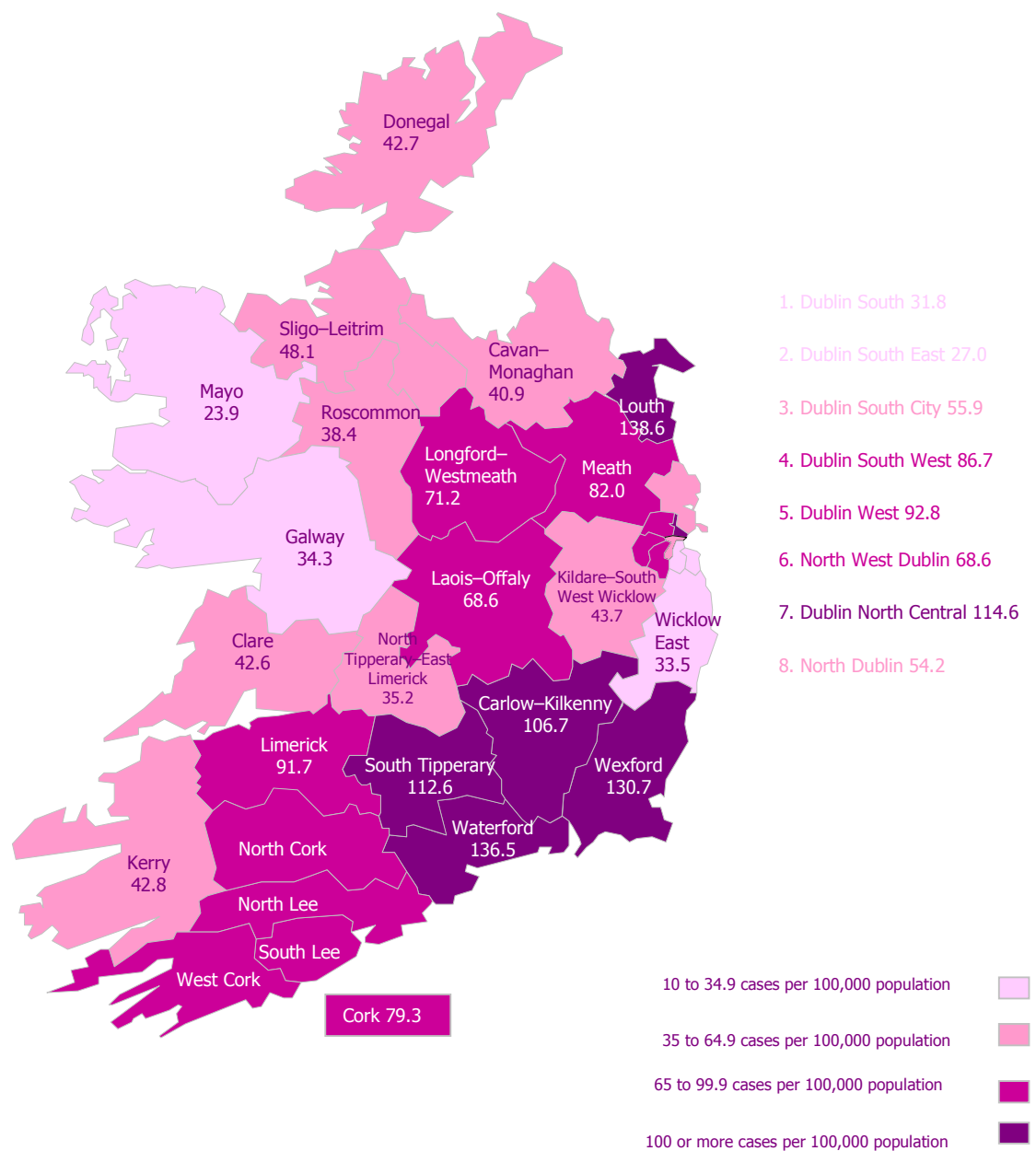


Figure 3 Average annual incidence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds living in Ireland, based on returns to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007, by local health office area, per 100,000 of the estimated 2007 population (Central Statistics Office 2007)

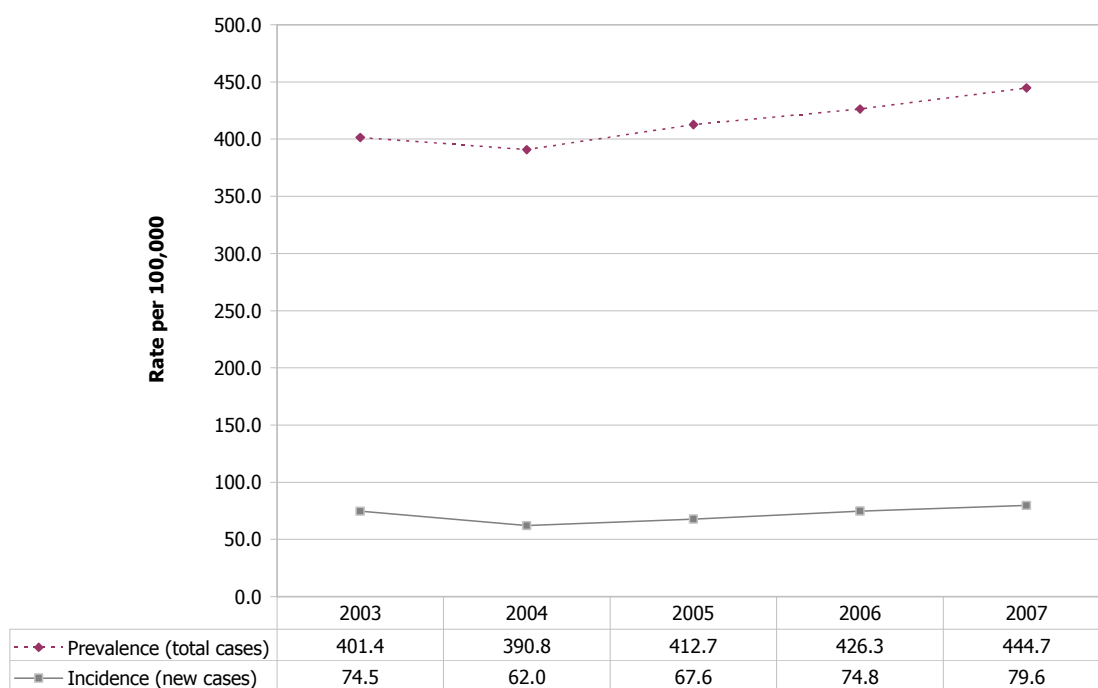


Figure 4 Incidence and prevalence of treated problem drug use among 15–64-year-olds living and treated in Ireland, based on returns to the NDTRS and the CTL per 100,000 population, 2003 to 2007 (Central Statistics Office 2007)

Main and additional problem drugs

Table 7 Main problem drug used by cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| Main problem drug | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Number (%) | | | | | |
| All cases entering treatment | 5054 | 4506 | 4877 | 5191 | 5684 |
| Opiates | 3029 (59.9) | 2863 (63.5) | 3094 (63.4) | 3280 (63.2) | 3575 (62.9) |
| Ecstasy | 219 (4.3) | 139 (3.1) | 124 (2.5) | 95 (1.8) | 128 (2.3) |
| Cocaine | 253 (5.0) | 331 (7.3) | 467 (9.6) | 552 (10.6) | 770 (13.5) |
| Amphetamines | 35 (0.7) | 23 (0.5) | 36 (0.7) | 30 (0.6) | 39 (0.7) |
| Benzodiazepines | 76 (1.5) | 103 (2.3) | 75 (1.5) | 96 (1.8) | 163 (2.9) |
| Volatile inhalants | 24 (0.5) | 31 (0.7) | 27 (0.6) | 23 (0.4) | 32 (0.6) |
| Cannabis | 1384 (27.4) | 991 (22.0) | 1039 (21.3) | 1096 (21.1) | 958 (16.9) |
| Others | 34 (0.7) | 25 (0.6) | 15 (0.3) | 19 (0.4) | 19 (0.3) |
| Previously treated cases* | 2838 | 2555 | 2760 | 2781 | 3091 |
| Opiates | 2190 (77.2) | 2108 (82.5) | 2281 (82.6) | 2237 (80.4) | 2404 (77.8) |
| Ecstasy | 69 (2.4) | 33 (1.3) | 30 (1.1) | 29 (1.0) | 42 (1.4) |
| Cocaine | 96 (3.4) | 119 (4.7) | 175 (6.3) | 194 (7.0) | 290 (9.4) |
| Amphetamines | 14 (0.5) | 7 (0.3) | 14 (0.5) | 9 (0.3) | 14 (0.5) |
| Benzodiazepines | 49 (1.7) | 50 (2.0) | 30 (1.1) | 40 (1.4) | 72 (2.3) |
| Volatile inhalants | 2 (0.1) | 2 (0.1) | 5 (0.2) | 3 (0.1) | 7 (0.2) |
| Cannabis | 401 (14.1) | 224 (8.8) | 219 (7.9) | 260 (9.3) | 255 (8.2) |
| Others | 17 (0.6) | 12 (0.5) | 6 (0.2) | 9 (0.3) | 7 (0.2) |
| New cases* | 2097 | 1790 | 1976 | 2228 | 2419 |
| Opiates | 759 (36.2) | 654 (36.5) | 722 (36.5) | 912 (40.9) | 1032 (42.7) |
| Ecstasy | 150 (7.2) | 103 (5.8) | 92 (4.7) | 65 (2.9) | 85 (3.5) |
| Cocaine | 148 (7.1) | 195 (10.9) | 275 (13.9) | 342 (15.4) | 462 (19.1) |
| Amphetamines | 21 (1.0) | 16 (0.9) | 22 (1.1) | 21 (0.9) | 25 (1.0) |
| Benzodiazepines | 27 (1.3) | 47 (2.6) | 42 (2.1) | 50 (2.2) | 85 (3.5) |
| Volatile inhalants | 20 (1.0) | 28 (1.6) | 21 (1.1) | 19 (0.9) | 24 (1.0) |
| Cannabis | 955 (45.5) | 736 (41.1) | 794 (40.2) | 809 (36.3) | 694 (28.7) |
| Others | 17 (0.8) | 11 (0.6) | 8 (0.4) | 10 (0.4) | 12 (0.5) |
| Treatment status unknown | 119 | 161 | 141 | 182 | 174 |

Table 8 Use of more than one drug by cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| Treatment status | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Number (%) | | | | |
| All cases entering treatment | 5054 | 4506 | 4877 | 5191 | 5684 |
| All cases who used more than one drug | 3760 (74.4) | 3157 (70.1) | 3401 (69.7) | 3692 (71.1) | 3816 (67.1) |
| Previously treated cases | 2838 | 2555 | 2760 | 2781 | 3091 |
| Previously cases who used more than one drug | 2091 (73.7) | 1811 (70.9) | 1934 (70.1) | 2007 (72.2) | 2115 (68.4) |
| New cases | 2097 | 1790 | 1976 | 2228 | 2419 |
| New cases who used more than one drug | 1588 (75.7) | 1244 (69.5) | 1374 (69.5) | 1555 (69.8) | 1607 (66.4) |
| Treatment status unknown | 119 | 161 | 141 | 182 | 174 |

Table 9 Number of problem drugs used by cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| Number of problem drugs used | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Number (%) | | | | |
| All cases entering treatment | 5054 | 4506 | 4877 | 5191 | 5684 |
| One | 1294 (25.6) | 1349 (29.9) | 1476 (30.3) | 1499 (28.9) | 1868 (32.9) |
| Two | 1498 (29.6) | 1252 (27.8) | 1385 (28.4) | 1404 (27.0) | 1548 (27.2) |
| Three | 1244 (24.6) | 1128 (25.0) | 1103 (22.6) | 1200 (23.1) | 1267 (22.3) |
| Four | 1018 (20.1) | 777 (17.2) | 913 (18.7) | 1088 (21.0) | 1001 (17.6) |
| Previously treated cases | 2838 | 2555 | 2760 | 2781 | 3091 |
| One | 747 (26.3) | 744 (29.1) | 826 (29.9) | 774 (27.8) | 976 (31.6) |
| Two | 836 (29.5) | 699 (27.4) | 774 (28.0) | 732 (26.3) | 870 (28.1) |
| Three | 702 (24.7) | 679 (26.6) | 646 (23.4) | 669 (24.1) | 678 (21.9) |
| Four | 553 (19.5) | 433 (16.9) | 514 (18.6) | 606 (21.8) | 567 (18.3) |
| New cases | 2097 | 1790 | 1976 | 2228 | 2419 |
| One | 509 (24.3) | 546 (30.5) | 602 (30.5) | 673 (30.2) | 812 (33.6) |
| Two | 636 (30.3) | 505 (28.2) | 573 (29.0) | 625 (28.1) | 631 (26.1) |
| Three | 516 (24.6) | 413 (23.1) | 430 (21.8) | 479 (21.5) | 559 (23.1) |
| Four | 436 (20.8) | 326 (18.2) | 371 (18.8) | 451 (20.2) | 417 (17.2) |
| Treatment status unknown | 119 | 161 | 141 | 182 | 174 |

Table 10 Additional problem drugs used by cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| Additional problem drug(s) used* | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number (%) | | | | | |
| All cases entering treatment | 3759 | 3157 | 3401 | 3692 | 3816 |
| Opiates | 711 (18.9) | 712 (22.6) | 686 (20.2) | 701 (19.0) | 654 (17.1) |
| Ecstasy | 968 (25.8) | 631 (20.0) | 645 (19.0) | 597 (16.2) | 638 (16.7) |
| Cocaine | 1095 (29.1) | 1029 (32.6) | 1144 (33.6) | 1362 (36.9) | 1368 (35.8) |
| Amphetamines | 326 (8.7) | 206 (6.5) | 195 (5.7) | 205 (5.6) | 181 (4.7) |
| Benzodiazepines | 993 (26.4) | 859 (27.2) | 963 (28.3) | 1043 (28.3) | 932 (24.4) |
| Volatile inhalants | 41 (1.1) | 45 (1.4) | 31 (0.9) | 23 (0.6) | 24 (0.6) |
| Cannabis | 1445 (38.4) | 1239 (39.2) | 1417 (41.7) | 1579 (42.8) | 1630 (42.7) |
| Alcohol | 1288 (34.3) | 993 (31.5) | 1136 (33.4) | 1460 (39.5) | 1516 (39.7) |
| Others | 130 (3.5) | 100 (3.2) | 80 (2.4) | 73 (2.0) | 110 (2.9) |
| Previously treated cases | 2090 | 1811 | 1934 | 2007 | 2115 |
| Opiates | 489 (23.4) | 569 (31.4) | 515 (26.6) | 463 (23.1) | 464 (21.9) |
| Ecstasy | 367 (17.6) | 214 (11.8) | 223 (11.5) | 197 (9.8) | 235 (11.1) |
| Cocaine | 650 (31.1) | 648 (35.8) | 717 (37.1) | 827 (41.2) | 836 (39.5) |
| Amphetamines | 120 (5.7) | 66 (3.6) | 69 (3.6) | 88 (4.4) | 77 (3.6) |
| Benzodiazepines | 778 (37.2) | 668 (36.9) | 739 (38.2) | 765 (38.1) | 662 (31.3) |
| Volatile inhalants | 14 (0.7) | 12 (0.7) | 9 (0.5) | 9 (0.4) | 9 (0.4) |
| Cannabis | 842 (40.3) | 757 (41.8) | 844 (43.6) | 925 (46.1) | 904 (42.7) |
| Alcohol | 557 (26.7) | 357 (19.7) | 439 (22.7) | 576 (28.7) | 662 (31.3) |
| Others | 64 (3.1) | 55 (3.0) | 42 (2.2) | 30 (1.5) | 59 (2.8) |
| New cases | 1588 | 1244 | 1374 | 1555 | 1607 |
| Opiates | 198 (12.5) | 123 (9.9) | 150 (10.9) | 194 (12.5) | 172 (10.7) |
| Ecstasy | 584 (36.8) | 401 (32.2) | 407 (29.6) | 394 (25.3) | 394 (24.5) |
| Cocaine | 421 (26.5) | 355 (28.5) | 401 (29.2) | 477 (30.7) | 502 (31.2) |
| Amphetamines | 205 (12.9) | 138 (11.1) | 123 (9.0) | 113 (7.3) | 103 (6.4) |
| Benzodiazepines | 191 (12.0) | 161 (12.9) | 198 (14.4) | 257 (16.5) | 255 (15.9) |
| Volatile inhalants | 27 (1.7) | 31 (2.5) | 20 (1.5) | 14 (0.9) | 14 (0.9) |
| Cannabis | 556 (35.0) | 449 (36.1) | 527 (38.4) | 583 (37.5) | 681 (42.4) |
| Alcohol | 707 (44.5) | 599 (48.2) | 663 (48.3) | 846 (54.4) | 816 (50.8) |
| Others | 63 (4.0) | 37 (3.0) | 36 (2.6) | 41 (2.6) | 50 (3.1) |
| Treatment status unknown | 81 | 102 | 93 | 130 | 94 |

* By cases reporting use of one, two or three additional drugs.

Table 11 Main problem drug and associated additional drugs used by new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland and reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| New cases | 2694 | 416 | 1176 | 93 | 187 | 57 | 2710 | 35 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Main problem drug | | | | | | | | |
| | Opiates | Ecstasy | Cocaine | Amphetamines | Benzodiazepines | Volatile inhalants | Cannabis | Others |
| Additional problem drug(s) used* | Number (%) | | | | | | | |
| Opiates | 572 (21.2) † | 16 (3.8) | 88 (7.5) | 4 (4.3) | 42 (22.5) | 3 (5.3) | 107 (3.9) | 5 (14.3) |
| Ecstasy | 305 (11.3) | 0 (0.0) | 487 (41.4) | 48 (51.6) | 37 (19.8) | 7 (12.3) | 1286 (47.5) | 10 (28.6) |
| Cocaine | 1005 (37.3) | 182 (43.8) | 14 (1.2) | 32 (34.4) | 54 (28.9) | 3 (5.3) | 861 (31.8) | 5 (14.3) |
| Amphetamines | 75 (2.8) | 114 (27.4) | 122 (10.4) | 0 (0.0) | 3 (1.6) | 0 (0.0) | 366 (13.5) | 2 (5.7) |
| Benzodiazepines | 817 (30.3) | 12 (2.9) | 96 (8.2) | 3 (3.2) | 9 (4.8) | 1 (1.8) | 119 (4.4) | 5 (14.3) |
| Volatile inhalants | 8 (0.3) | 7 (1.7) | 6 (0.5) | 1 (1.1) | 3 (1.6) | 6 (10.5) | 75 (2.8) | 0 (0.0) |
| Cannabis | 1546 (57.4) | 281 (67.5) | 778 (66.2) | 54 (58.1) | 80 (42.8) | 35 (61.4) | 7 (0.3) | 15 (42.9) |
| Alcohol | 584 (21.7) | 214 (51.4) | 671 (57.1) | 40 (43.0) | 115 (61.5) | 36 (63.2) | 1949 (71.9) | 22 (62.9) |
| Others | 66 (2.4) | 15 (3.6) | 26 (2.2) | 2 (2.2) | 11 (5.9) | 0 (0.0) | 103 (3.8) | 4 (11.4) |

* By cases reporting use of one, two or three additional drugs.

† Additional problem drug(s) used may be a form of drug in the same family as the main problem drug.

Initial treatment provision

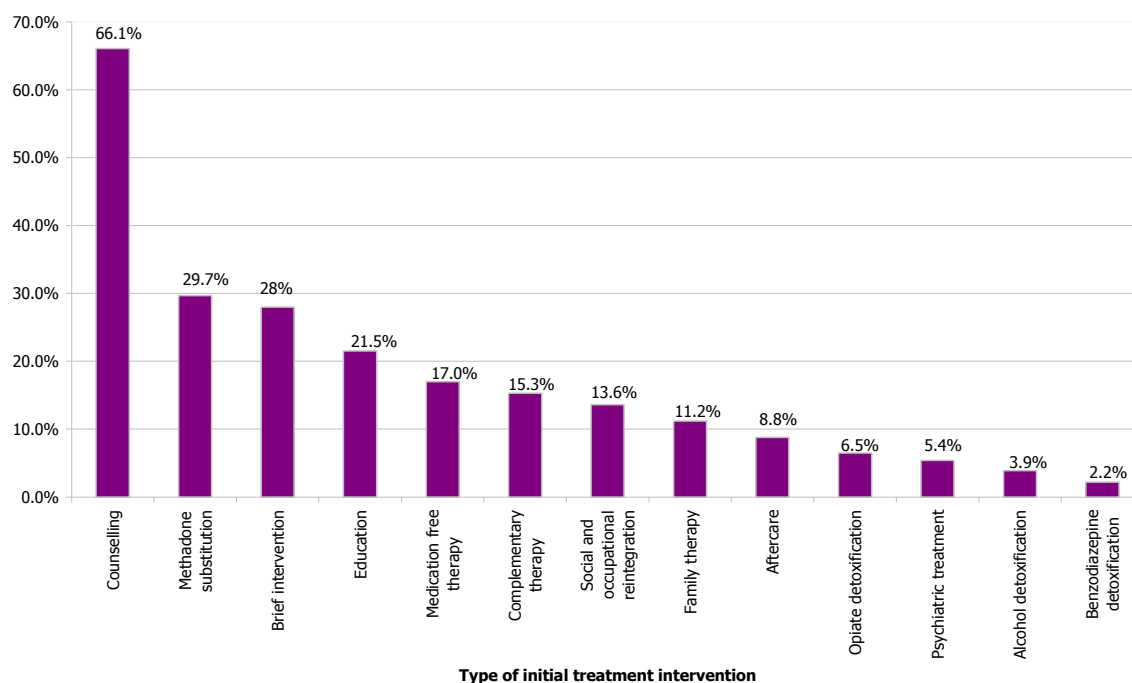


Figure 5 Percentage of cases living and entering treatment in Ireland who availed of each type of initial treatment intervention provided, reported to the NDTRS, 2007

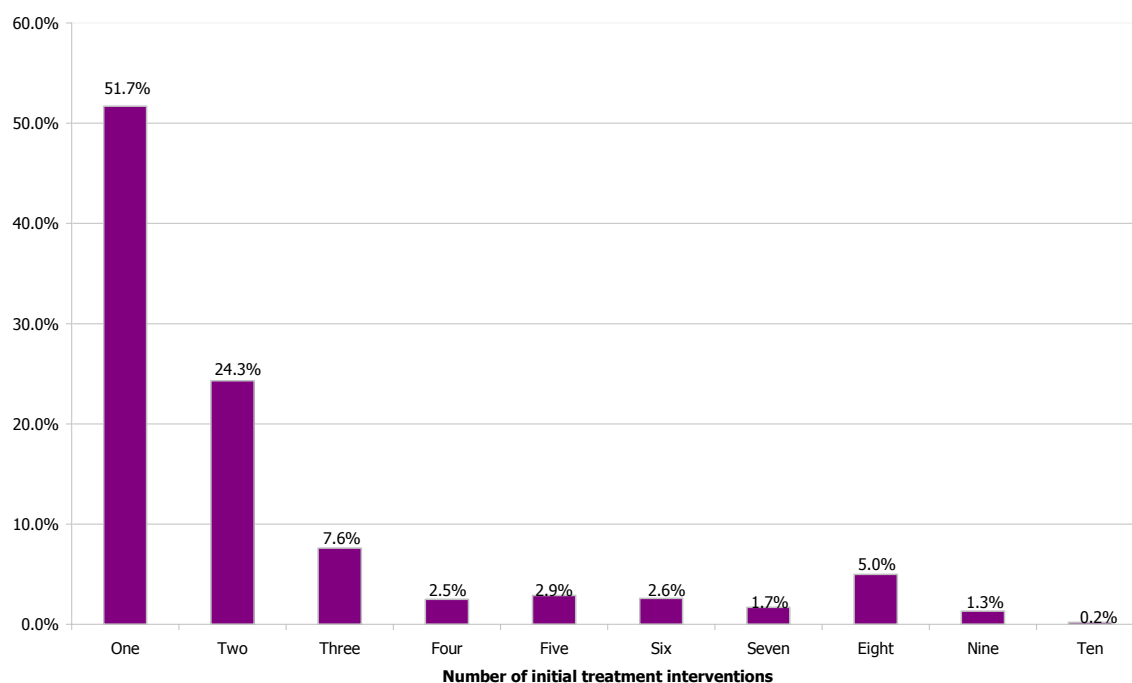


Figure 6 Percentage of cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by the number of initial treatment interventions availed of, reported to the NDTRS, 2007

Risk behaviours

Table 12 Risk behaviours reported by all cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| All cases | 4924 | 4356 | 4707 | 4992 | 5465 |
| Number (%) who had ever injected | 2233 (45.3) | 2074 (47.6) | 2164 (46.0) | 2104 (42.1) | 2289 (41.9) |
| Of whom: [†] | | | | | |
| Ever shared | 1378 (27.3) | 1245 (27.6) | 1305 (26.8) | 1239 (23.9) | 1317 (23.2) |
| Currently injecting | 1000 (19.8) | 990 (22.0) | 918 (18.8) | 954 (18.4) | 966 (17.0) |
| Median age (range*) started drug use, in years | 14 (11-21) | 14 (11-21) | 15 (11-23) | 14 (11-22) | 14 (11-22) |
| Median age (range*) started injecting, in years | 19 (15-29) | 19 (15-29) | 19 (14-30) | 19 (15-30) | 20 (15-31) |
| Previously treated cases | 2747 | 2448 | 2639 | 2660 | 2976 |
| Number (%) who had ever injected | 1722 (62.7) | 1679 (68.6) | 1745 (66.1) | 1595 (60.0) | 1761 (59.2) |
| Of whom: [†] | | | | | |
| Ever shared | 1147 (66.6) | 1064 (63.4) | 1112 (63.7) | 1012 (63.4) | 1067 (60.6) |
| Currently injecting | 687 (39.9) | 739 (44.0) | 704 (40.3) | 707 (44.3) | 699 (39.7) |
| Median age (range*) started drug use, in years | 14 (11-20) | 14 (11-21) | 14 (11-21) | 14 (11-21) | 14 (11-21) |
| Median age (range*) started injecting, in years | 19 (15-28) | 19 (15-29) | 19 (14-30) | 19 (15-29) | 19 (15-30) |
| New cases | 2075 | 1770 | 1940 | 2173 | 2362 |
| Number (%) who had ever injected | 461 (22.2) | 333 (18.8) | 358 (18.5) | 423 (19.5) | 473 (20.0) |
| Of whom: [†] | | | | | |
| Ever shared | 214 (46.4) | 152 (45.6) | 160 (44.7) | 188 (44.4) | 227 (48.0) |
| Currently injecting | 298 (64.6) | 213 (64.0) | 189 (52.8) | 215 (50.8) | 233 (49.3) |
| Median age (range*) started drug use, in years | 15 (12-22) | 15 (11-21) | 15 (11-24) | 15 (12-24) | 15 (11-23) |
| Median age (range*) started injecting, in years | 20 (15-31) | 21 (15-34) | 20 (15-31) | 20 (15-32) | 21 (15-33) |
| Treatment status unknown | 102 | 138 | 128 | 159 | 127 |

[†] It is not possible to ascertain the exact percentage of injectors with each risk factor of interest as not all known injectors provided the relevant information.

* Age range presented is the 5th to 95th percentile (90% of cases are included within this range).

Main socio–demographic characteristics of treated cases

Table 13 Socio–demographic characteristics of cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, by treatment status, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Characteristics* | Number (%) | | | | |
| All cases entering treatment | 5054 | 4506 | 4877 | 5191 | 5684 |
| Median age (range [†]) | 25 (16-41) | 25 (16-40) | 26 (16-41) | 27 (17-42) | 27 (17-42) |
| Under 18s | 526 (10.4) | 415 (9.2) | 404 (8.3) | 363 (7.0) | 422 (7.4) |
| Males | 3577 (70.8) | 3291 (73.0) | 3613 (74.1) | 3983 (76.7) | 4332 (76.2) |
| Living with parents/family | 2817 (55.7) | 2393 (53.1) | 2536 (52.0) | 2664 (51.3) | 2835 (49.9) |
| Homeless | 195 (3.9) | 197 (4.4) | 217 (4.4) | 265 (5.1) | 279 (4.9) |
| Non-Irish nationals | 168 (3.3) | 123 (2.7) | 162 (3.3) | 195 (3.8) | 240 (4.2) |
| Early school leavers | 974 (19.3) | 892 (19.8) | 986 (20.2) | 1040 (20.0) | 1132 (19.9) |
| Still at school | 377 (7.5) | 271 (6.0) | 275 (5.6) | 222 (4.3) | 252 (4.4) |
| Employed (16-64-year-olds) | 1080 (22.3) | 956 (22.0) | 1025 (21.8) | 1069 (21.2) | 1055 (19.0) |
| Previously treated cases | 2838 | 2555 | 2760 | 2781 | 3091 |
| Median age (range [†]) | 26 (19-41) | 27 (19-41) | 28 (19-42) | 28 (19-43) | 29 (19-43) |
| Under 18s | 86 (3.0) | 64 (2.5) | 72 (2.6) | 72 (2.6) | 87 (2.8) |
| Males | 1953 (68.8) | 1782 (69.7) | 1972 (71.4) | 2093 (75.3) | 2320 (75.1) |
| Living with parents/family | 1454 (51.2) | 1250 (48.9) | 1291 (46.8) | 1343 (48.3) | 1396 (45.2) |
| Homeless | 124 (4.4) | 136 (5.3) | 155 (5.6) | 156 (5.6) | 177 (5.7) |
| Non-Irish nationals | 86 (3.0) | 69 (2.7) | 74 (2.7) | 95 (3.4) | 134 (4.3) |
| Early school leavers | 617 (21.7) | 599 (23.4) | 685 (24.8) | 660 (23.7) | 735 (23.8) |
| Still at school | 43 (1.5) | 31 (1.2) | 29 (1.1) | 22 (0.8) | 42 (1.4) |
| Employed (16-64-year-olds) | 559 (19.9) | 445 (17.5) | 460 (16.8) | 447 (16.2) | 431 (14.0) |
| New cases | 2097 | 1790 | 1976 | 2228 | 2419 |
| Median age (range [†]) | 22 (15-39) | 22 (15-39) | 23 (15-39) | 24 (15-40) | 24 (16-41) |
| Under 18s | 430 (20.5) | 338 (18.9) | 326 (16.5) | 285 (12.8) | 328 (13.6) |
| Males | 1539 (73.4) | 1392 (77.8) | 1542 (78.0) | 1758 (78.9) | 1867 (77.2) |
| Living with parents/family | 1323 (63.1) | 1065 (59.5) | 1175 (59.5) | 1227 (55.1) | 1353 (55.9) |
| Homeless | 62 (3.0) | 52 (2.9) | 54 (2.7) | 103 (4.6) | 90 (3.7) |
| Non-Irish nationals | 78 (3.7) | 50 (2.8) | 84 (4.3) | 93 (4.2) | 98 (4.1) |
| Early school leavers | 338 (16.1) | 264 (14.7) | 274 (13.9) | 339 (15.2) | 366 (15.1) |
| Still at school | 325 (15.5) | 234 (13.1) | 240 (12.1) | 196 (8.8) | 208 (8.6) |
| Employed (16-64-year-olds) | 501 (26.1) | 487 (29.4) | 542 (29.7) | 590 (28.0) | 590 (25.7) |
| Treatment status unknown | 119 | 161 | 141 | 182 | 174 |

* It is not possible to ascertain the percentage with each characteristic of interest from the total number because not all forms had complete data.

† Age range presented is the 5th to 95th percentile (90% of cases are included within this range).

Relationship between main problem drug and selected socio-demographic characteristics

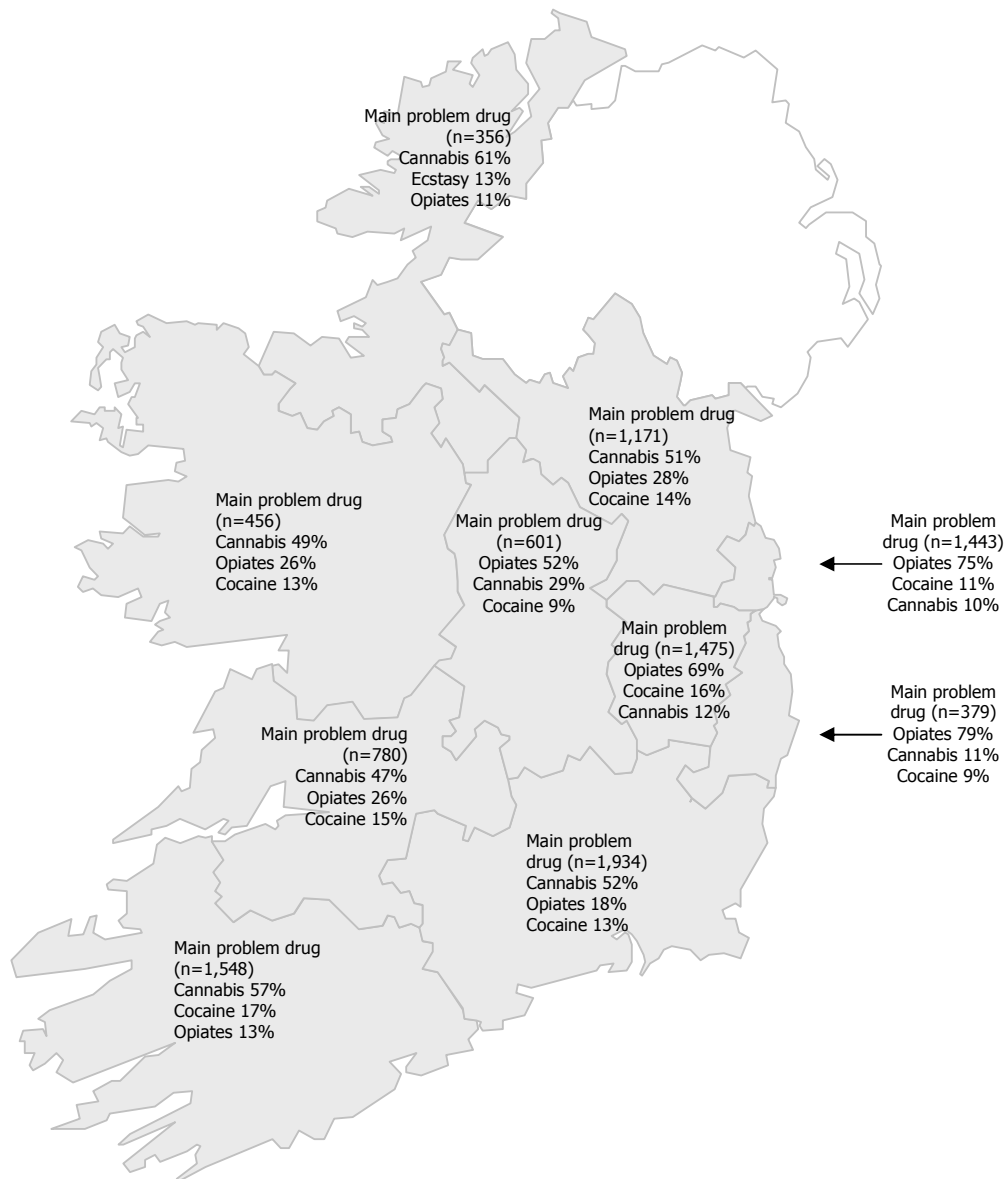


Figure 7 The three most common main problem drugs, by former health board area, for new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

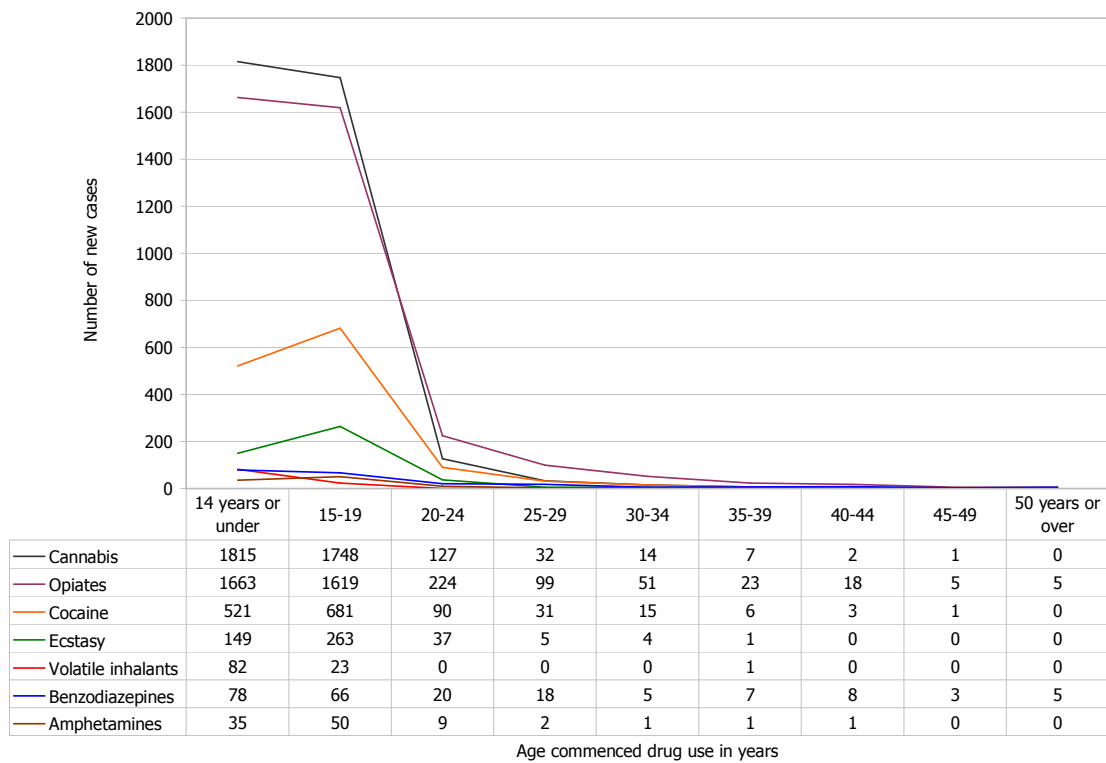


Figure 8a Age at first use of main problem drug by new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

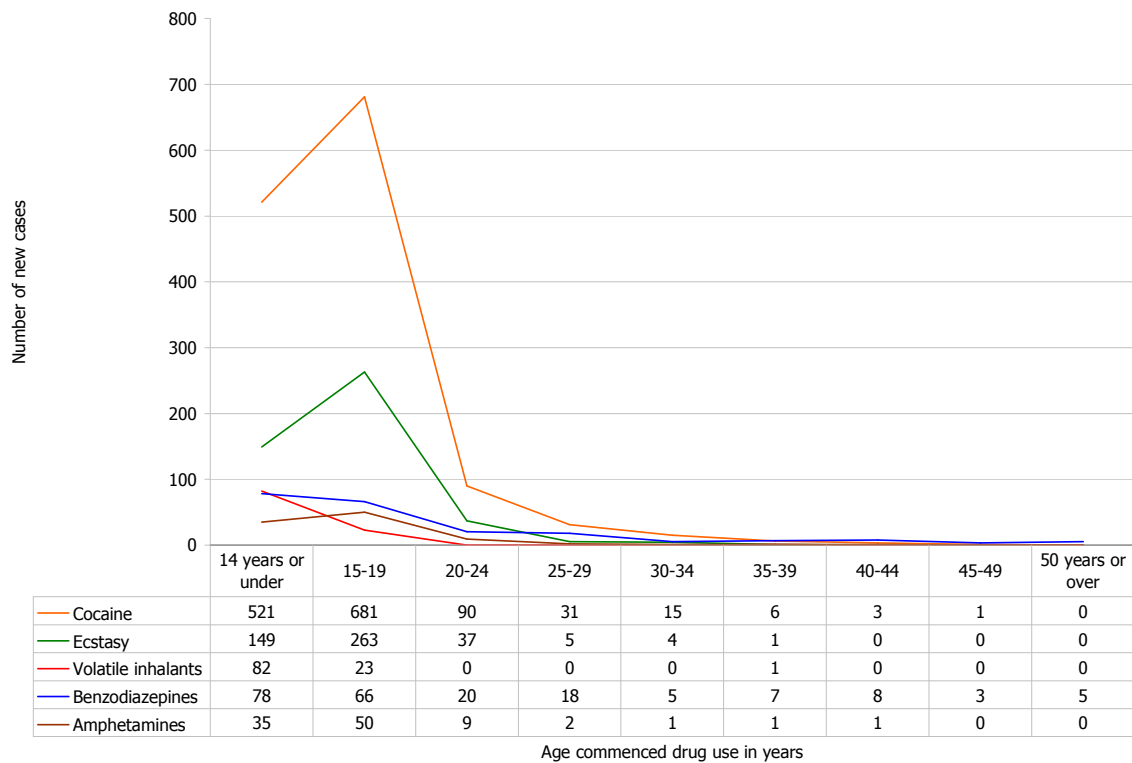


Figure 8b Age at first use of main problem drug (excluding opiates and cannabis) by new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

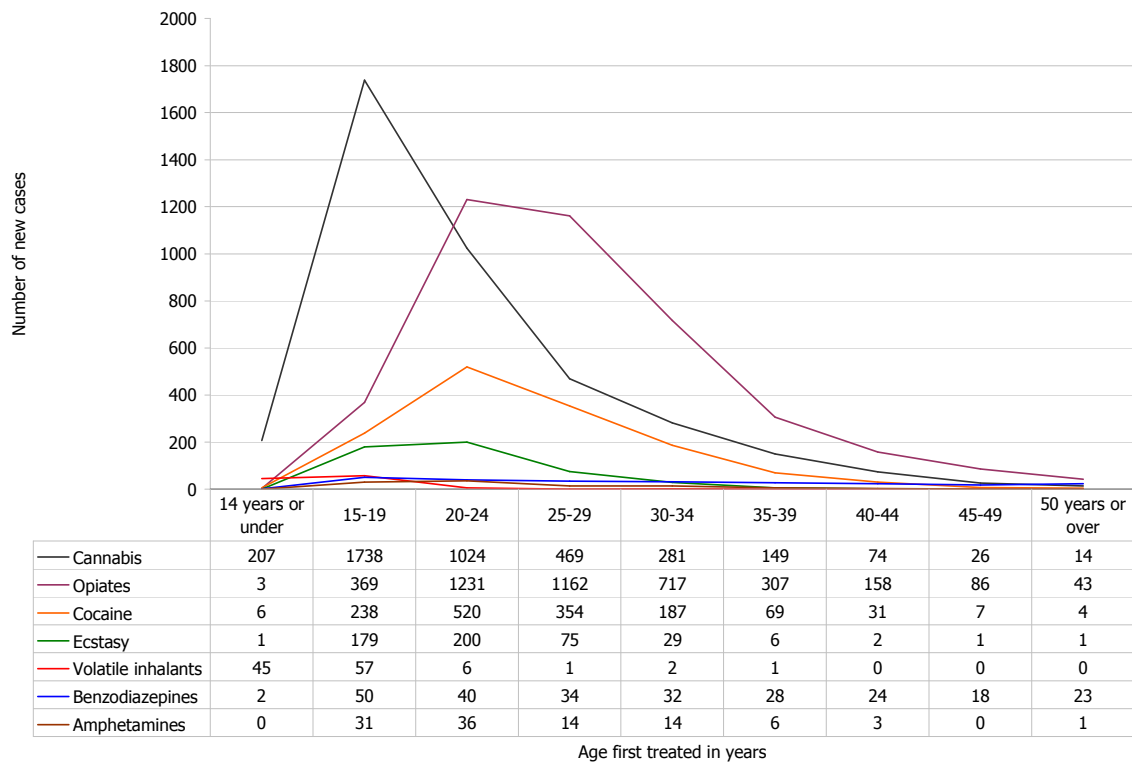


Figure 9a Age attended first treatment, by main problem drug, for new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

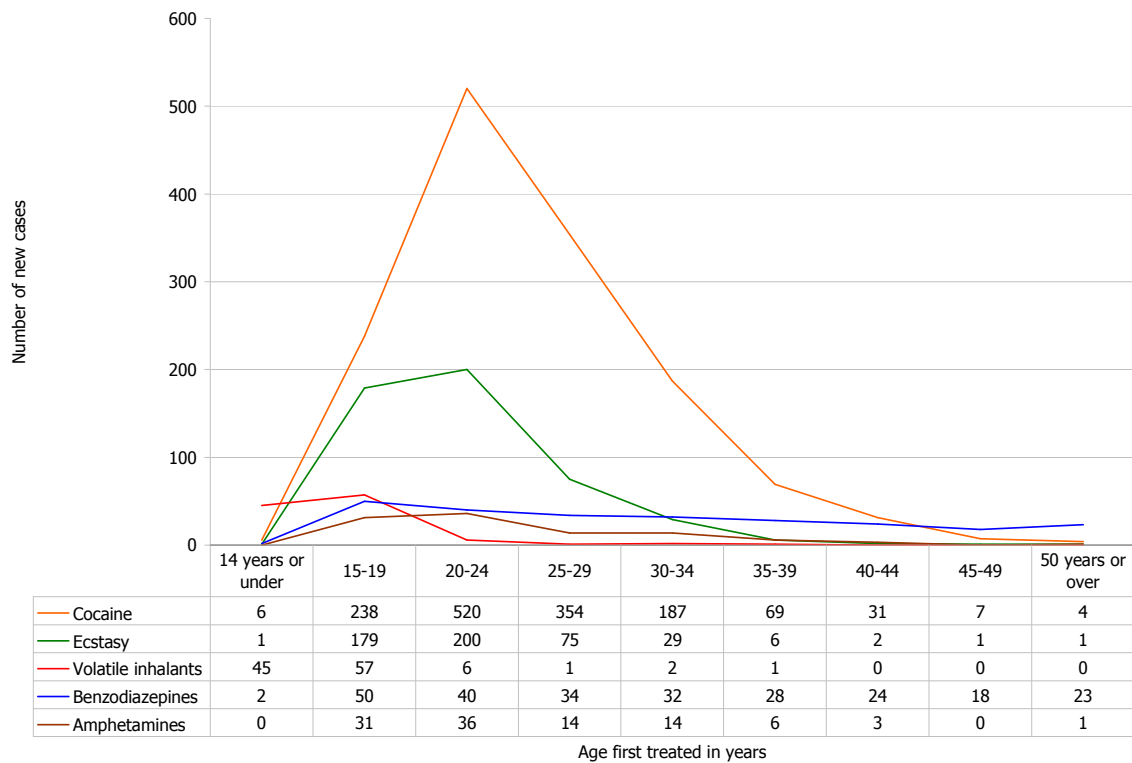


Figure 9b Age attended first treatment, by main problem drug (excluding opiates and cannabis), for new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

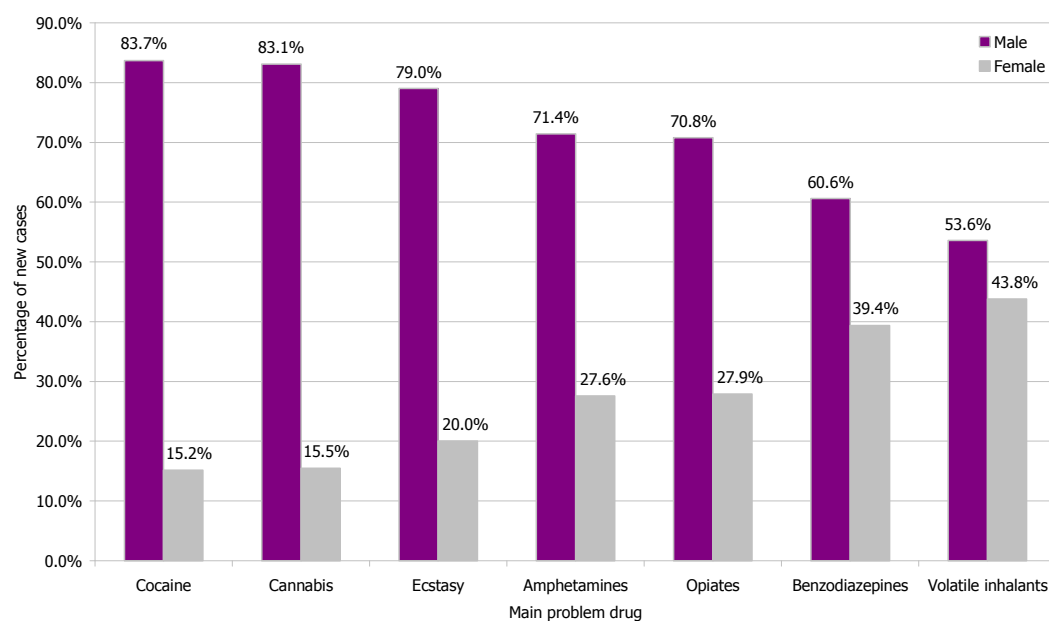


Figure 10 Main problem drug, by gender, for new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

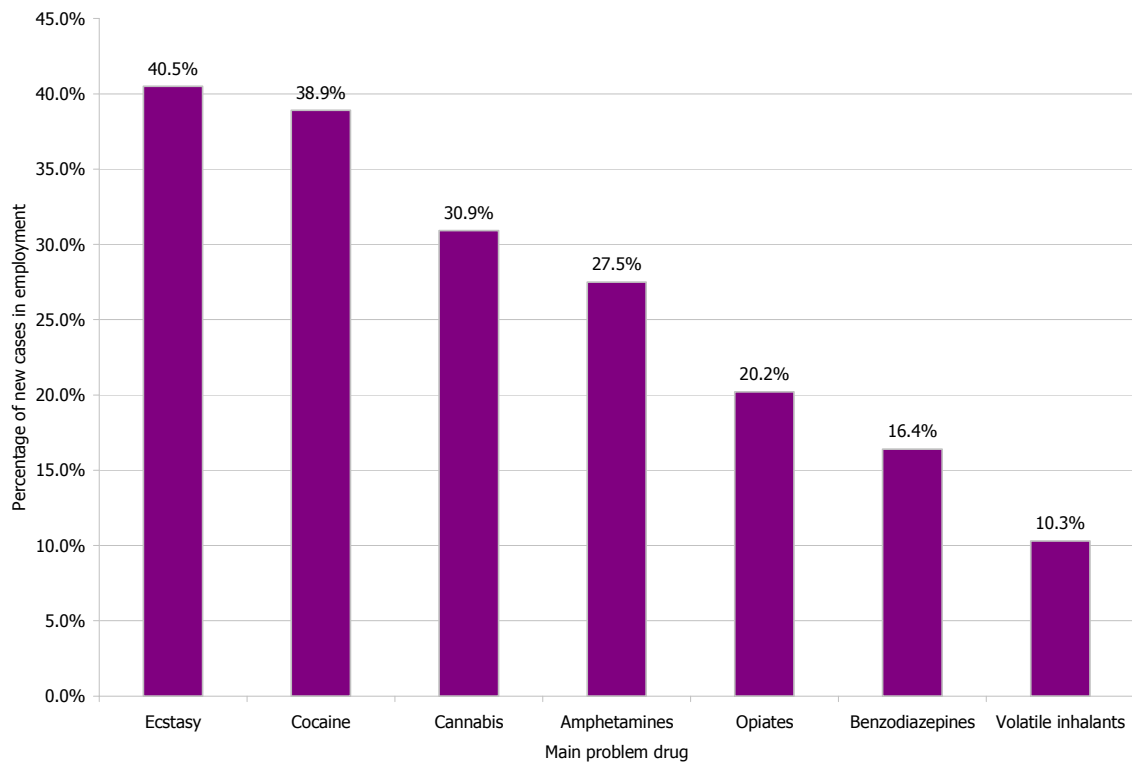


Figure 11 Main problem drug for new cases aged 16–64 years in employment and living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

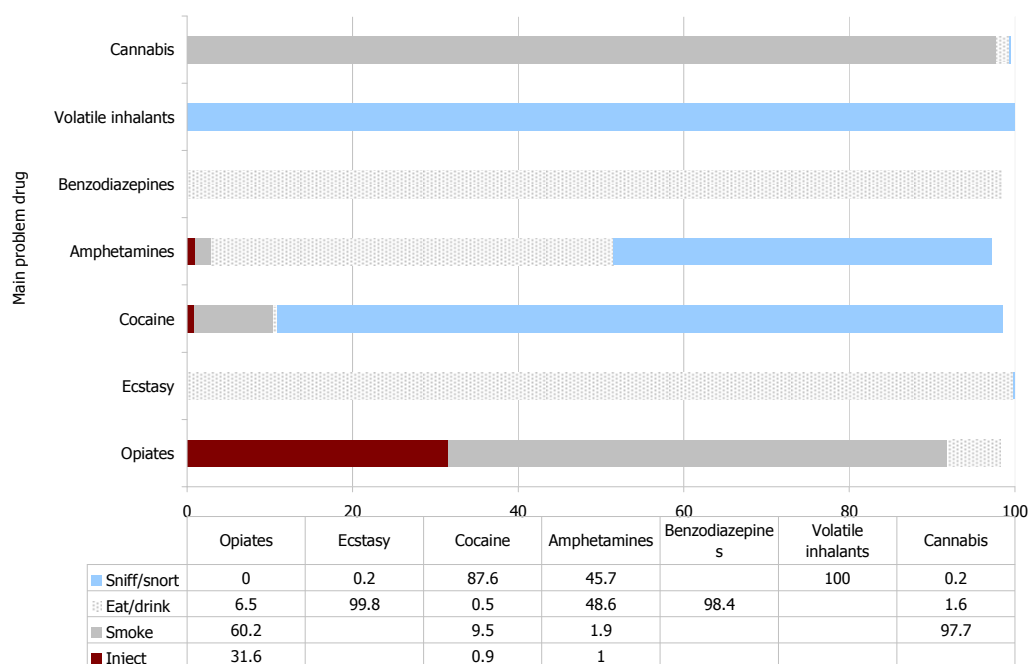


Figure 12 Route of administration of selected main problem drugs for new cases living and entering treatment in Ireland, reported to the NDTRS, 2003 to 2007

Acknowledgements

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